

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T STATE 149222

EXDIS OTTAWA FOR SCIOUNS VANDERWYDEN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MNUC, TW, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN REACTOR CONVERSION STUDY

1. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CONTACTING APPROPRIATE CANADIAN OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE STATUS OF AECL FEASIBILITY STUDY ON CONVERSION OF TAIWAN RESEARCH REACTOR (TRR) TO OPERATION ON LOW ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL (LEU). YOU MAY INFORM CANADIANS THAT USG EXPECTS THAT TRR WILL BE RE-LOADED DURING FIRST PART OF JULY AND THAT THEREAFTER REACTOR WOULD RESUME OPERATION. U.S. INTENDS TO SEND INTERAGENCY TEAM TO TAIWAN IN LATER PART OF JULY, AT WHICH TIME WE HOPE TO INITIATE DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH ROC ON CONVERSION OF TRR TO LEU FUEL. NOTING OUR SHARED
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INTEREST IN TRR CONVERSION PROPOSAL, EMBASSY SHOULD ASK WHETHER IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR CANADIANS TO PROVIDE AT LEAST PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF CONVERSION STUDY BY JULY 10.

2. YOU MAY ALSO INFORM CANADIANS THAT WE DID PASS TO ROC ON INFORMAL, UNATTRIBUTED BASIS THEIR WORKING PAPER ON

HYPOTHETICAL PROBLEMS CONCERNING RESTARTING THE REACTOR.
YOU MAY ALSO STATE THAT ROC HAS RECENTLY ADVISED US THAT
NO LEAKS DEVELOPED IN TRR FUEL DURING RECENT SHUT DOWN
PERIOD AND THAT NO SAFETY PROBLEMS ARE ANTICIPATED. YOU

MAY ALSO INFORM NOBLE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THAT WE ARE
ACTIVELY SEEKING POLICY DECISION ON DISPOSITION OF
NATURAL URANIUM SPENT FUEL FROM TRR AND HOPE TO BE IN
POSITION TO RESPOND TO GOC ON THIS ISSUE IN NEAR FUTURE.
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